

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

October 14, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

October 17

Outdoor Ed Health Forms due

October 21

Math - Division Test

October 23-24

Parent/Teacher Conferences (half days)

October 28 6:30 p.m.

Internet Presentation

News

One School, One Book

Our school kicked off our One School, One Book event last week. Each family should have received a book titled *Masterpiece*, which our entire school community will be reading together throughout the months of October and November. Inside the book you will find a schedule outlining which chapters should be read together for that week.

Mind Your Kid's Business Internet Presentation

Tuesday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Parents are invited to attend this program, which was developed to help increase parents' and other adults' knowledge of Internet safety information and guidelines. The one-hour session includes information on protecting children while using the Internet; how young people are using the Internet; social networking sites; electronic bullying; and how to report and block illegal or questionable Internet activity.

Outdoor Education Field Trip

This year's overnight trip will be on December 9 - 10. Yellow health forms have been sent home. Please return completed forms by October 17. We will need several chaperones for this overnight trip. If you are interested, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:
<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) You can check out our completed radial name designs on our art blog. 5th grade artists are learning about Keith Haring. We looked at how he uses lines in his art. For our project these were the rules:

- 1) Line starts at stops at the same spot (a dot in the corner of paper)
- 2) Line must stay within half of an inch of itself
- 3) Line must never cross itself (that'd be a shape)
- 4) Line can change as often as you like from wavy to zig-zag to castle, etc

We then traced our hands over our drawings. The lines inside our hands now all turned to shapes. Using thin drawing markers, we colored the shapes.

Music - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> Check out our website to see the composition assignment the students started on using their ipads. **5th graders started recorder this week.** If your child does not have one this week they will lose a guilder and preparation points. If your child does not have a recorder, they are \$6 and can be purchased through the school website or by bringing in cash or check (to district 97) to me. Please do not buy a recorder from another source. If you need financial help with purchasing the recorder please email me. If your child already has a recorder from somewhere else, have them bring it in and I will see if it is useable for class.

Chorus - Please remember to turn in your child's permission slip if you have not yet. I have emailed you a online permission slip with information on our performance at the Oak Park Arms. If you did not receive it please email me and I will send it out again. Also, there are videos of the songs we will be doing at the concert on the chorus page at <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> . Just click on the chorus tab.

Gold Belt- Gold Belt Ensemble parents and guardians should have received an online permission slip this week. If you did not receive one, email me at akaria@op97.org.

Spanish - All classes have finished their first story of the school year. We will now move on to assessments and imovies in the next couple weeks. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - Students have been learning about how the library is organized. This is important to becoming an independent library user! This week we will focus on how non-fiction is organized. Did you know that the Dewey Decimal Classification system is used all over the world? Once students have a general idea of how the library is organized, the possibilities for exploring topics of interest are endless! See the Dewey Rap on my homepage for a fun look at this classification system. Please email mmaneck@op97.org with any questions. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

Physical Education - International Walk To School day at Holmes was the best ever! The very first student to walk to school was Maya Schwartz. Boy! Did she rise early in the morning to accomplish that feat! The largest walking school bus came fro the South. All Student that walked to school and/or walked a lap around the school playground during their lunch hour, all recieved an lwalk hand stamp.

Coming for the entire month of November is HEARTLAND ADVENTURE.
(www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Reading/Literature

This week, reading mini lessons will center around studying the characters in fiction texts. Students will learn that main characters always have connections to the other characters in a book. Students will apply this learning by creating a "Character Connections" chart in their Reader's Notebook. The chart describes the important characters in the students' novels as well as the connections between the main character and the other characters. Other mini lesson topics will include growing theories about characters, expecting complications in characters, and attending to objects that reveal characters.

Writing

We will continue to create lists of “seeds” for personal narrative stories and try out quick versions of these stories by writing notebook entries of these small, important moments. We will also review strategies for writing strong narratives by telling stories step-by-step using actions, descriptions, thoughts, and dialogue.

Math

Graded quizzes will be returned by the end of the week. This week, we will continue to work on division of whole numbers. Students have been practicing with the partial quotients method of division. We will extend our understanding of division by using area models to illustrate division. The division unit test will be next Tuesday (October 21). We will begin a unit on volume the following week.

In order to be working at grade level, it is important that fifth grade math students are fluent with their 1-12 math facts. If your child is struggling with math facts, s/he can practice for five to ten minutes a day using Fact Practice on Moby Max. All students have accounts. Please contact your child’s teacher if s/he has difficulty logging in.

Science

In science this week, we will learn about independent and dependent variables and graph the data collected on the length of shadows on the blacktop. We will begin our study of why the Earth is constantly changing. We will examine the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere.

Social Studies

In Social Studies we are continuing our unit on Ancient Americans. We are focusing on the the Moundbuilders of Cahokia. Between 1050 and 1150 the city of Cahokia, located in present day southern Illinois, was home to tens of thousands of people. It was larger than many European cities of this time period. We will continue to utilize an excellent online resource called Project Arch-ae-o to guide our study. Project Arch-ae-o gives students access to videos, interactive archeological activities, and games to teach them about archeology and Cahokia. There are much more resources on this site than we have time to explore in class. Interested families may sign-in for free and explore the site on their own. The link is on the 5th grade Wiki! This week we will continue to learn about how the layout of Cahokia was related to how these people viewed the stars. Last week, special school activities shortened our social studies time.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We’re on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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